

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1779

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3155

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SP

SUBJECT: SPANISH POSITION ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: A. STATE 91776

B. MADRID 2650

C. MADRID 3018

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY ASSESSMENT AS TO RELATIVE IMPORT-
ANCE TO SPANISH OF ITEMS LISTED REF B. THESE PRIORITIES
ARE BASED ON DEGREE OF DESIRABILITY AS INDICATED IN PAST
BY SPANISH, AS WELL AS TANGIBLE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED
BY THEM:

A. CONSTRUCTION IN SPAIN OF SEA CONTROL SHIP FOR
SPANISH FLEET AND OTHER INTERESTED NATIONS. IRAN, AND
RECENTLY AUSTRALIA, HAVE MANIFESTED INTEREST IN ACQUIRING
THESE SHIPS FOR THEIR FLEETS. COST OF DESIGN PACKAGE
IS \$40 MILLION FROM GIBBS AND COX, POSSIBLY FINANCED
WITH IRAN'S PETRODOLLARS. THIS, ALONG WITH CONTINUED
AND POSSIBLY EXPANDED COOPERATION IN EXISTING PATROL
FRIGATE PROGRAM COULD WELL BE VERY ATTRACTIVE TO SPANISH.

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B. EXISTING DEPOT OVERHAUL FOR F-4 AIRCRAFT (PROJECT

PEACE PACK) COULD BE EXPANDED TO INCLUDE OVERHAUL CAPABILITY FOR F-5 AIRCRAFT, AIM 9J AND AIM7 SYSTEMS TOGETHER WITH HELICOPTER TURBINE REBUILD/OVERHAUL FACILITY PROGRAM. THIS WOULD REPRESENT A SIGNIFICANT PACKAGE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO SPAIN, PARTICULARLY IF MEDITERRANEAN MARKETS BECOME ACCESSIBLE.

C. RETROFIT OF FRG TANKS IN SPAIN. THIS PROGRAM, COUPLED WITH RETROFIT OF THEIR OWN M47 AND M48 TANKS COULD REPRESENT SIZEABLE BENEFIT. IMPROVING APPROX 800 TANKS OF NATO'S STRONGEST EUROPEAN MEMEBER COULD BE VIEWED AS STEP CLOSER COOPERATION WITH ALLIANCE, IN ADDITION TO ITS OBVIOUS FAVORABLE INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT IN SPAIN.

D. AMMUNITION PRODUCTION. ACQUISITION OF MARKETS TO DEVELOP FULL PRODUCTION CAPACITY OF EXISTING FACILITIES AND POSSIBLE DIVERSIFICATION TO PRODUCTION OF OTHER TYPES OF AMMUNITION COMPATIBLE TO NATO SYSTEMS IS REQUIRED TO DEVELOP THIS PROGRAM.

E. ELECTRONICS COPRODUCTION AGREEMENTS.

F. EXCHANGE OF R&D DATA. THIS PROGRAM, ONLY TOUCHED UPON IN REF B, COULD BE PURSUED TO BENEFIT OF U.S. NEGOTIATION EFFORTS. IT WOULD ENVISAGE DEVELOPMENT OF SPANISH CAPABILITIES IN THIS FIELD AND COULD EVENTUALLY PROVIDE EXPERTIZE IN SPECIFIED AREA SUCH AS AIR DEFENSE, COMMUNICATIONS, AND LOGISTICS SYSTEMS. (IN THIS CONNECTION, DURING RECENT VISIT TO JUSMG/MAAG, SPAIN, ROBERT A BASIL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS, DDR&E, REPORTED DOD APPROVAL OF SUCH A PROGRAM HAD ENCOUNTERED STATE OBJECTIONS IN PAST.)

G. HARPOON SYSTEM.

H. F-16 FIGHTER, WITH APPROPRIATE CO-PRODUCTION ARRANGEMENTS.
STABLER

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